

**Minutes**  
**King County Rural Forest Commission**  
**January 16, 2002**  
**Mercerview Community Center**

*Commissioners present:* Jean Bouffard, Louis Kahn, Bill Kombol, Ken Konigsmark, Fred McCarty, Doug McClelland, Dave Warren

*Commissioners absent:* Gordon Bradley, Rudy Edwards, Steve Ketz, Matt Mattson, Andrew Schwarz

*Exofficio members:* Steve Boyce

*Staff:* Kristi McClelland, Jenna Tilt, Benj Wadsworth

*Guests:* Dennis Dart, Lee Kahn

Doug McClelland called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**Chair Report**

Doug distributed the press release for the purchase of Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm by the Evergreen Forest Trust. The deal for over 100,000 acres was announced this morning. It is contingent on IRS approval of tax-free forest bonds.

**Minutes Approval**

Motion 1-102 "To adopt the November 15, 2001 and December 19, 2001 minutes as written. Moved, seconded and approved.

**Staff Report**

Benj reminded the Commission that they had agreed to hold the public meeting for the Public Rule for Forest Plans prior to the February meeting. He suggested that because the Feb meeting is scheduled for the week of Presidents Day weekend, it might make sense to bump it a week later. Due to a number of conflicts, the group decided to keep the normal RFC meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and hold the Public Meeting at the March RFC meeting.

The Forest Policy is on route to the Executive's Office and should be signed by Executive Sims in the near future.

## **2002 Planning**

Benj distributed a chart of the priorities that the RFC established for 2001, the progress made on each action, and the possible actions needed in 2002. Doug suggested that everyone take some time to read the chart and that the group then lay out a work plan for the next 3 or 4 months.

Fred asked about the conservation design action. He knows a landowner that might be interested in pursuing a conservation design. He will approach the landowner and stay in touch with Benj.

Doug suggested the need to focus on educating Council members, especially the new ones. There are four new Council members, Kathy Lambert (District 3, Louise Miller's replacement), Dow Constantine (District 8, Greg Nichols' replacement), Julia Patterson (District 13, Chis Vance's replacement), and Carolyn Edmunds (District 1, Maggi Fimia's replacement). Carolyn Edmunds is the new chair of the Natural Resources and Open Spaces Committee. Dow Constantine is also on that committee.

Benj commented that WLRD is conducting a tour for the new Council members this morning. However, he feels that forestland issues will not be a large part of the tour and that there is a need to do a separate tour focused on forestland.

Doug asked if there are other Council members that have expressed interest in the issue. Larry Gosset asked some questions at the NRPOS meeting when the new RFC members were confirmed. Jean Bouffard wondered if it would be smart to meet with Dwight Pelz.

Fred raised the issue of Current Use Taxation not being an adequate incentive because the portion of a parcel with a house on it is taxed disproportionately to the rest of the parcel. Benj will look into having Ted Sullivan, the coordinator of the PBRs program, come to a future meeting.

Doug suggested that there is still a need to educate some key staff members on the Executive side. He suggested that Ken Konigsmark take the lead in organizing an effort to meet with key people in the Executive and Council offices, preferably in the next three months. Jean suggested the need for a list of bullets summarizing the successes over the past years and a list of upcoming issues. Benj will put something together.

Doug raised the issue of working with the County on resource land management. He feels that the RFC can be very helpful in providing detailed recommendations. Benj commented that staff will be working on a list of policies that will dictate how the natural lands managed for forestry will be managed. He envisions a document similar to the WADNR Forestland Management Policy. Jenna Tilt suggested that the RFC needs to

meet with Connie Blumen. Doug suggested using the February meeting to focus on the management of County forestlands. Benj wondered if the committee meeting at Weyerhaeuser already served this purpose and if at this point it would help for the staff to review those recommendations and bring a draft policy back to the RFC. Benj suggested that it might help to invite the basin stewards and the parks resource managers to the meeting to keep them in the loop and get their input.

Doug commented that there are a series of regulatory initiatives that are part of the ESA response. Steve Boyce stated that there is a new schedule for the tri-county response to ESA, and he feels that it would be helpful for the Commission to get an update. The Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance will encompass the ESA provisions. Doug suggested that the RFC schedule a briefing in March or April.

Jean asked about the forest bank initiative and why it had been deemed unfeasible. Doug asked if it had been replaced by the TDR program. Benj summarized that the program involves cooperation between landowners and that given the development value of the land in King County, it would not likely be possible to form a bank and guarantee landowners a return on their timber that would approach the development value of their land.

Jean asked to be brought up to speed on the Forest Legacy application process. The state has made their recommendations, which will go to the regional committee and then the national committee, which will make the final decisions.

Benj mentioned the need to clarify what is meant by making the “urban-rural forest connection.” He feels that there is a need to put the vision on paper in order to verbalize it to the public. Kristi commented that there is a geographic connection linking small urban parcels to the larger rural parcels. Ken added that the FON slideshow is a big part of making the connection – educating urban people about the value of rural forests.

Doug expressed the need to better understand all of the different tools that various groups such as Mts-to-Sound, Cascade Land Conservancy, Friends of Rock Creek, etc. are using. He suggested that in April or May the RFC should focus on educating the public about the urban-rural connection and the need to conserve forestland. Benj commented that this might be one purpose that the workshop could serve.

### **Forest Workshop**

Benj distributed a draft agenda for the proposed workshop in May or June. It is very much a draft and is meant to serve as a focus for discussion. He suggested that the need for summaries by each group might not be necessary. Kristi commented that a keynote presentation by Executive Sims or someone else could serve the purpose of summarizing the collaborative efforts that have occurred. Doug asked for initial reactions from the Commission. All feel the workshop is a good idea. Benj asked whether the workshop should involve people from outside King County. Doug commented that it would be worthwhile to invite certain key people from Pierce and Snohomish, but that space would limit the number.

Ken suggested using the lunch hour to continue meeting. He also feels that it would be important to review all of the different funding sources that groups are using. He feels too that industry should be represented and hopefully would be forthright about their plans for forestland in the County. Doug suggested doing a networking lunch with planned activities. He suggested that it might be possible to get a corporate sponsored lunch. Benj asked to what extent all of the different groups understand what is going on throughout the County, and how necessary it would be to have each group give a summary of their activities. He feels that some people have a good grasp but others may not. Jean suggested that it depends on the audience – if the media and interested public will be invited, summaries will be necessary. Otherwise, they may not. Jenna Tilt suggested that it might be helpful to send out a questionnaire to the various groups asking for their input in planning the workshop.

Benj would like to set a date and confirm the location before leaving on the 27<sup>th</sup> for two months. He suggested creating a committee to work on planning. Jean, Ken, and Doug volunteered to help out. Doug suggested the need to notify certain people about the event so that they are not surprised. Regarding the media, Ken suggested talking with Jim Vesley at the Seattle Times. Jenna suggested putting together a brochure with contact information and a summary of the accomplishments highlighted at the workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.